

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2003

Environmental Cleanup Office



15111 8th Avenue S.W., Suite 303
Seattle, WA 98166
(206) 241-5185
FAX (206) 241-5159

October 27, 2003

Chip Humphrey
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
811 SW 6th Avenue, 3rd Floor
Portland, OR 97204

Tara Martich
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
1200 Sixth Ave, M/S ECL-115
Seattle, WA 98104

**Re: Lower Willamette River, Portland Harbor Superfund Site
USEPA Docket No: CERCLA-10-2001-0240
Validated Round 1 Sediment Congeners and Tissue Data**

Dear Mr. Humphrey and Ms. Martich:

The validated Round 1 tissue data and the remaining Round 1 analytical data [polychlorinated dioxin/furan congeners (PCDDs/PCDFs) and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) congeners] for sediment samples collected during Round 1 of the Portland Harbor Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) by the Lower Willamette Group (LWG) have been posted on the Portland Harbor Collaboration Portal server for use by EPA and its partners. New and revised validated analytical results are provided in a single Microsoft Access file with a database structure compatible with NOAA's Query Manager database system. NOAA previously provided the LWG with a Microsoft Access file template of the database structure. Data validation reports for these data will be submitted soon under separate cover.

A brief summary of the delays encountered during laboratory analysis of the Round 1 sediment and tissue samples is provided below.

Although selected laboratory analyses were initiated in 2002 (e.g., mercury in tissue, multiple parameters in sediment), a large portion of the laboratory analyses were not initiated during calendar year 2002 because of ongoing discussion between LWG and EPA regarding analyte lists and the selection of samples for analysis. Laboratory analyses of PCB Aroclors and congeners in sediment and tissue matrices and the analysis of PCDDs/PCDFs in tissue samples were not authorized until March 4, 2003. The delay in authorization of PCB analysis caused a ripple effect and subsequent delays in other analyses, including chlorinated pesticides, semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), and lipids analysis of tissue samples, due to co-extractions and the need for lipid data to determine the appropriate mass of sample to extract for SVOC analysis.

USEPA SF



1178616

In late March 2003, LWG received a list of samples designated for SVOC analysis from EPA. Between late March and mid-April, several technical issues (e.g., reclassification of crayfish as HHRA/ERA species, request for analysis for tentatively identified compounds) were discussed by LWG and EPA technical representatives and resolved. Laboratory authorization for tissue SVOC analysis occurred on April 24, 2003.

Multiple extractions and dilutions were required to complete the PCB congener and PCDD/PCDF analyses, which resulted in significant delays for both sediment and tissue samples. For PCB congeners, the laboratory continued to have difficulty reporting all 209 PCB congeners at the extremely low reporting detection limits required by EPA in the project quality assurance project plan. Ultimately, the laboratory was able to resolve this issue by splitting the extract and using a carbon column cleanup for analysis of selected congeners. Although this issue was resolved successfully from a technical standpoint, the method development time at the laboratory caused additional delays in completion of analysis of PCB congeners in both sediment and tissue matrices.

Data validation was typically conducted within four weeks of the data validation subcontractor's receipt of each data package. There were no significant delays in data validation during the course of the project. Data validation reports and electronic data deliverables (EDDs) for the last Round 1 data packages were received by SEA on September 19, 2003. However, due to inconsistencies between the hard copy data validation reports and the EDDs, the data validation reports and EDDs for selected packages were revised and resubmitted. The revised data validation reports and revised EDDs were received on October 1, 2003. Therefore, October 1, 2003 is the date for completion of Round 1 sampling and analysis.

Please feel free to call me at (206) 241-5185 if you have any questions or require additional information regarding the Round 1 analyses and validation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Betsy Striplin', followed by the word 'for' in a smaller, cursive script.

Betsy Striplin
RI/FS Coordinator

Enclosure

cc: LWG Executive Committee
LWG Legal Committee
LWG Repository